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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Mark Oblack

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Title: BALL THROWING APPARATUS AND METHOD

Group Art Unit: 3711

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January 19, 1999

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Non-Fee Amendment
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Kindly amend Claim 1, 4 and 5 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A ball throwing apparatus, comprising:

- a. an elongated shaft having a longitudinal axis and opposite distal and proximal ends; and
- b. a ball engaging means integrally formed [located] on said distal [and] end of said shaft, said ball engaging means capable of engaging a ball while holding said proximal end of shaft and forcibly inserting said ball engaging means around the ball, said ball engaging means capable of releasing the ball when said shaft is held near said [distal] proximal end [of said shaft] and swung in a circular path.

4. (Once Amended) A ball throwing apparatus, as recited in Claim 2, wherein [the] said